AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 9, line 24 to line 37, please replace the paragraph beginning, "The present invention is also directed to a method of inducing expression ..." with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention is also directed to a method of inducing expression of at least one gene in a cell, comprising the steps of: contacting said cell with a transcription factor decoy oligonucleotide sequence directed against a nucleotide sequence encoding a shear stress response element; and determining the expression of said gene in said cell. Generally, oligonucleotide comprises a terminal ~~phosphothiorate~~ phosphothioate moiety and a phosphodiester backbone and a structure which allows the oligonucleotide to pass cell membranes and accumulate in the nuclear compartment of the cell. Generally, the cell is a cultured cell. Preferably, the cell is selected from the group consisting of an epithelial cell and an endothelial cell. Representative examples of which can be used in this method include renal cortical cell, renal fibroblast cell, hepatocyte, pancreatic islet, renal interstitial cell, parathyroid cell, thyroid cell, pituitary cell, ovarian cell and testicular cell. In one embodiment, the cell is grown in two dimensional culture. Representative examples of shear stress response elements include GAGACC and GGTCTC.

On page 15, line 16, in Example 10, please replace the paragraph beginning, "Double stranded genetic decoys matching ..." with the following amended paragraph:

Double stranded genetic decoys matching the sequence of a known shear stress response element were synthesized (Chemicon International Inc., La Jolla, Calif.) (structure and sequence shown at top of FIG. 4). These decoys had a terminal ~~phosphothiorate~~ phosphothioate moiety to prevent intracellular lysis, and a phosphodiester backbone to facilitate passage across cell membranes (49). Passage to and accumulation in the nuclear compartment of cultured cells was confirmed by confocal imaging of a fluorescein tagged decoy. Three decoys were synthesized: the active decoy, a random sequence control in which the six bases of the shear stress response element were scrambled, and a fluorescein conjugated form of the decoy. Decoys were placed in the cell culture medium of rat renal cortical cells grown as above in conventional two-dimensional culture. Aliquots of cells exposed to control or active sequence decoy at 80 nm concentration were harvested at 2, 6 and 24 hours after exposure.